



NCPC File No. 6417

**POTOMAC ANNEX COMPLEX (OLD NAVAL OBSERVATORY)
MECHANICAL UPGRADES (BUILDING 3 AND 4)
PRELIMINARY AND FINAL SITE AND BUILDING PLANS
23rd Street, NW
Washington, DC**

Delegated Action of the Executive Director

December 30, 2003

Pursuant to delegations of authority adopted by the Commission on October 3, 1996, I approve the preliminary and final site and building plans for the mechanical upgrades to Buildings 3 and 4 at the Potomac Annex Complex, 23rd Street, NW, Washington, DC, as shown on NCPC Map File No. 1.33(38.00)-41286.

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The General Services Administration (GSA) proposes to install mechanical upgrades at Building 3 and Building 4 of the Potomac Annex Complex on 23rd Street in Northwest Washington, D.C. The facility, formerly known as the Old Naval Observatory, is a complex of buildings dating from 1844 to 1911 and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The project will upgrade the heating, ventilation and air conditioning system in the basement and first floors in Building 3, and upgrade the mechanical system for an existing server/computer room in Building 4.

For Building 3, the improvements consist of removing a basement window and replacing it with a mechanical louver system and placement of a new at-grade chiller adjacent to the mechanical room and existing transformer enclosure. The chiller will measure approximately 12 feet by 6 feet by 7 feet tall. One parking space will be lost as a result of the new chiller. At Building 4, which is connected to Building 3, the improvements consist of the installation of rooftop equipment (two dry coolers, two pumps and two expansion tanks) on the flat roof of the southern addition to the building. The tallest elements – the coolers – will measure approximately 4 feet by 4 feet by 4 feet tall. The equipment will sit back from the roof edge as far as possible and the units will be minimally visible.

GSA has determined that the project qualifies as a Categorical Exclusion under its environmental procedures developed pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality's

Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act. The Potomac Annex is a historic district listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The GSA has determined, and the DC SHPO has concurred, that the project would have no adverse effect on the historic and architectural qualities of the historic district. The GSA concluded its Section 106 responsibilities. The Coordinating Committee reviewed this item at its meeting on December 10, 2003, and forwarded the proposal to the Commission with the statement that the project has been coordinated with all agencies participating.

Patricia E. Gallagher, AICP
Executive Director